



# THE LEADER

Vol. 38, No. 17

Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. ♦ [www.grandforks.af.mil](http://www.grandforks.af.mil)

May 2, 2003



## Glad to be home

Warriors of the north return home,  
-- See Pages 12-13

*Photo by Senior Airman Jathzed Fabara*

319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Winners of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (July 2000 to June 2002)

### Inside: Steen Blvd. closes

#### Weekend weather

Today	70/35	partly cloudy
Saturday	68/38	partly cloudy
Sunday	63/44	rain
Monday	58/39	rain



*Weather information courtesy  
319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight*

Page 3



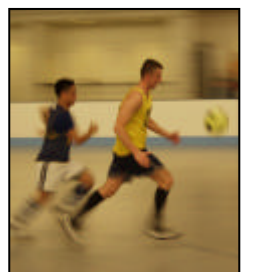
### Last ride

Page 4



### Furious finish for base soccer title

Page 16





# Tanker power fueling fight

By Lt. Col. Jim Vechery

340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron Commander

**Base Y --** It is hard to believe that only a few months ago, this base was a tanker-only wing with KC-135s and KC-10s flying combat missions for Operation Enduring Freedom.

In the ensuing months, the base swiftly transitioned to become the largest coalition fighting wing in history, with more combat firepower than any other base in the area of responsibility. During that transition, one feature remained constant — the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron and their combat proven KC-135 tanker aircraft.

As the new wing unfolded, there were many rumors of the KC-135s leaving town for a new location. Frequently, the talk of the base was the new rumor of the day. You couldn't go anywhere without being asked whether we were leaving or staying. In the end, not only did the 340th's Enduring Warriors stay, we actually grew in size as we incorporated our Air National Guard teammates from Birmingham, Ala. With a tanker fighting force of 12 airplanes and 23 aircrews, we rolled into Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The transition was fast and furious. In less than one month's time, the

skilled professionals in this squadron flew and supported three different operations: Enduring Freedom, Southern Watch, and Iraqi Freedom. As the wing prepared for the war to liberate Iraq, we helped forge a relationship with our fighter brethren to become one lethal fighting team.

In the early stages of preparation, the 340th EARS operations staff developed an air-refueling track overhead, affectionately named "Jack Track" to provide valuable boom time allowing U.S. and coalition fighter pilots the opportunity to hone their skills.

This proved beneficial as our Australian and British partners became more comfortable with "the old wrecking ball," a nickname they use for our drogue refueling system. We also partnered with the other flying squadrons to share time-saving planning materials since we had valuable experience operating in the AOR from this location. The transition was swift, as we became a war-ready fighting machine within weeks.

Since tanker operations began at this base following the attacks of Sept. 11, there were no days off for the enabling tanker fleet. We ran a permanent 24-7 operation. The night before the Iraqi air war started was no different. We had missions airborne supporting Operation Southern Watch. Little did the crews



Photo by Master Sgt. Terry Blevins

**A KC-135 refuels an Airborne Warning and Control aircraft near dark. The KC-135s from the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron are capable of refueling a variety of aircraft.**

know they would soon be a part of history.

On that night, the Air Force demonstrated unprecedented flexibility in application of air power as an F-117 strike mission was planned and executed against a key target in Baghdad. A 340th EARS aircrew conducted the pre-strike refueling of these two Stealth Fighters and their F-16CJ escorts. The dauntless tanker crew led the thirsty fighters into enemy territory to their designated push point becoming the first tankers to enter Iraqi airspace during this conflict. The F-117s employed the newest in precision-guided weaponry against a time-sensitive Iraqi target.

Following the successful strike, another 340th EARS crew conducted the post-strike refueling enabling the aircraft to return home safely.

Then came "Shock and Awe!" That first night of the air war was very memorable as members of this wing lined the taxiways with U.S., British, and Australian flags waving as we all taxied our aircraft to the runway. The fighters and tankers performed a brilliant ballet of coordination as everyone took to the skies in minimal time and were quickly enroute to the fight.

As the hostilities commenced,

-- see **TANKERS**, Page 8



**Action Line**  
**747-4522**

*The Action Line is your avenue for information about events and activities on and around the base.*

*For questions about current events or rumors, please leave a message.*

**90%**

Mission effectiveness rating

**6**

DWI-free Days



**Col. Keye Sabol**  
319th Air Refueling Wing commander

## Editorial staff

**Col. Keye Sabol** \_\_\_\_\_ Wing commander  
**Capt. Patricia Lang** \_\_\_\_\_ Chief, public affairs  
**Staff Sgt. Monte Volk** \_\_\_\_\_ Chief, internal information  
**Senior Airman Joshua Moshier** \_\_\_\_\_ Managing editor  
**Senior Airman Jathzed Fabara** \_\_\_\_\_ Staff writer

## Editorial policy

The Leader is published by the Grand Forks Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 319th Air Refueling Wing. This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of The Leader are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by DOD, the Department of the Air Force, or the Grand Forks Herald of products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race,

color, religion, sex, national origin, age, martial status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

♦**Deadlines** -- Articles: Due by noon Thursday the week prior to publication. For any questions about submissions, call The Leader staff at 747-5019.

♦**Contact information** -- E-mail: leader@grand-forks.af.mil, Phone: 701.747.5023

♦**Public Affairs** -- Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 319th ARW public affairs office. Copy submitted for publication is edited to conform to the Associated Press Stylebook and for length.

♦**Advertisements** -- Call the Grand Forks Herald at 701.780.1275 before noon Tuesday.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol

### Coming to a street near you

A section of Steen Blvd closes Monday to install a row of pop-up barriers, 400 feet west of the main gate's guardhouse. The project will last 35 days, weather permitting. Traffic will be detoured north on Louisiana, west on Fir and south on J Street, back to Steen. Local resident and base traffic is allowed to use all other streets connecting Louisiana to J Street.



Photo by Senior Airman Joshua Moshier

### Taking a bite out of crime

Col. Scott Phillips, 319th Air Refueling Wing Vice Commander, signs the 2003 Police Week proclamation letter, signifying the week of May 10 through 16 as the base Police Week, while McGruff the Crime Dog looks on.



# Wheels down on vice's final flight

UND graduate, wing's vice commander pilots last flight on base before move to Maxwell AFB, Ala.

By Kris Jensen

Col. Scott Phillips has seen enough "fini-flights" in his Air Force career to know what happens when the wheels come down.

Before takeoff Tuesday, he tucked his cell phone and wallet into a zip-top plastic bag. He had good reason.

The base's group and squadron commanders turned out on the flightline Tuesday to douse Phillips with water hoses, monster squirt guns and champagne for the ceremonial end to his tenure as wing vice commander.

He'll be in the job until May 6, when he turns over his duties to Col. Steve Wayne. He moves on to become Air Mobility chair to the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Phillips' final flight, Raid Zero Two, lasted three hours, mostly over North Dakota, he said.

"As soon as I landed, I looked over to the side of the runway there and saw some de-icing trucks and a bunch of folks holding champagne bottles and hoses," he said after a change of clothes. "Two de-icers were showering arcs of water over the top of the plane as I pulled into the chocks, and my crew dumped the remaining water from our water from jugs on top of me. When I got out, there were fire extinguishers hitting me from eight different angles, people dumping champagne over

the top of my head."

Five years ago, when Phillips' wife, Linda, retired from her Air Force career as a lieutenant colonel and KC-135 pilot, Phillips "had the pleasure of showering Linda down." She joined the crowd Tuesday to douse her husband. It was "payback time for her, absolutely," he said.

They followed the shower with a champagne toast, which he offered to his wife, just as he did after her finiflight, with hopes for the future.

"It was a wonderful flight," he said. "It turned out to be a beautiful day, and it reminded me of my first military flight as part of the flight evaluation program at UND 30 years ago. I was ROTC, and it was the summer of 1973, and I couldn't keep from thinking about that first flight that I had."

He credited the finiflight's success to teamwork.

"It was a pleasure to work with all the people involved, from the schedulers, preflight maintenance, flight planners, air traffic controllers, base ops — it was a tremendous experience dealing with these great airmen serving our country," he said.

And a pleasure, he said, that the plastic bag did its job.

"I learned from experience," he said. "I've got a dry wallet."

*(Reprinted with permission of the Grand Forks Herald)*



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol*

**Col. Scott Phillips, 319th Air Refueling Wing vice commander, gets showered after landing his final flight on base.**

## Briefs

### Government travel card responsibilities

► **Useage:** Cardholders are authorized to use the card only for those necessary and reasonable expenses incurred for official travel.

► **Delinquency/Misuse:** Cardholders are directed to pay for all charges no later than upon receipt of your monthly billing statement. Members who misuse their card or do not pay their bills in a timely manner will be subject to appropriate administrative or disciplinary action.

► **Mandatory payment method:** Effective May 1, the mandatory method of payment for the Government Travel Card is split disbursement.

With split disbursement, the Finance offices pays the bank for you; any remaining funds are sent to your personal account. A member who uses their GTC must use the split disbursement block on their travel voucher. All members that will be on extensive temporary duties are encouraged to file accrual vouchers a minimum of every 30 days. Finally, members should settle travel vouchers with Finance within five days after completing travel.

For details, please contact your unit's GTC monitor, or call Capt. Rich Stacey at 747-4817.

### Military Spouse Day open house

The Family Support Center is holding a Military Spouse Day open house 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 9. Cake and punch will be served, and door prizes will be awarded. This event is open to all military spouses. Children are also welcomed to attend.

### Cause, effect of violence seminar

Army Lt. Col. (ret.) Dave Grossman, Killology Research Group Director, will be speaking at the Northern Lights Club Wednesday on the causes and effects of violence. Speaking times are 8 to 10:30 a.m. for commanders and first sergeants only, and 1 to 3:30 p.m. for all base community members.

Grossman is an internationally recognized scholar, author, soldier and speaker who is one of the world's foremost experts in the field of human

aggression and the roots of violence and violent crimes. He is also a West Point psychology professor who has combined his experiences to become the founder of a new field of scientific endeavor, termed "killology," making revolutionary contributions to our understanding of killing in war, the causes of client crime and the process of healing victims of violence.

For details, call Family Advocacy at 747-6806.

### 2003 Retiree Appreciation Day

The base and the Retiree Activities Office would like to personally welcome all retirees and their families to the 2003 Retiree Appreciation Day beginning at 7:30 a.m. May 10 with a continental breakfast at the Northern Lights Club here.

Our goal is to provide retirees and their families with valuable information concerning benefits and the services our base has to offer.

The guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. (ret.) Richard D. Murray from the National Association of Uniformed Services. He will be on hand to answer questions and discuss what his and other organizations are doing for retirees on Capitol Hill.

There will be an information fair with representatives covering topics such as legal affairs, medical and dental care, retiree entitlements and pay, veterans programs, Social Security, Medicare, and more. There will also be a health fair with blood pressure checks and cholesterol screenings. Finally, a speaker from TRICARE will provide critical information on changes affecting the entire retiree community.

### OPSEC tip

Being a military family member, you may know bits of military information. Do not discuss this type of information outside of your immediate family and especially over the telephone. These bits of information may seem insignificant, however, to a trained adversary, they are small pieces of a puzzle that highlight what we're doing.

Remember, the element of surprise is vital to the accomplishment of our goals and personal protection.



# ND grilling presents challenges

By Master Sgt. Richard Lien  
Assistant Fire Chief



Photo by Staff Sgt. Monte Volk

**Keep summertime activities, like grilling, safe by being prepared and keeping a fire extinguisher, bottle of water or garden hose handy.**

Summertime means warm temperatures, extended daylight and great food cooked on the barbecue. The only problems with outdoor cooking are bugs and the occasional burnt bratwurst, unless tragedy strikes.

There are a few things we need to remember while grilling, the most common is having barbecue grills to close to buildings. Never allow anyone to use a grill inside a garage or basement.

Often times, when I speak with folks about why they were barbecuing inside their garage, they reply, "Well, it was raining," or, "It's too cold."

Barbecuing in North Dakota does present some challenges, but with a raincoat or parka, it'll be O.K. The danger is when the grill flares-up. Then, the problem is bigger than burnt food; most likely, the building or garage will catch on fire.

The fire prevention office asks all barbecuing and grilling be done at least 10 to 15 feet away from any building or structure.

Below are a few safety tips for gas or charcoal grill use. If an emergency should occur, remember to dial 911 for immediate help.



**Flare-ups like this are dangerous to the grill and any nearby buildings or structures.**

## Gas grill tips

Liquid petroleum gas or propane, used in gas grills, is highly flammable, and can be explosive. To reduce the risk of fire or explosion, you should routinely perform the following safety checks:

- ▶ Check the tubes that lead into the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders, or food grease. Use a pipe cleaner or wire to clear blockage and push it through to the main part of the burner.
- ▶ Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- ▶ Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease. If you can't move the hoses, install a heat shield to protect them.
- ▶ Replace scratched or nicked connectors, which can eventually leak gas.

- ▶ Check for gas leaks, following the manufacturer's instructions, if you smell gas or when you reconnect the grill to the LP gas container. If you detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas and don't attempt to light the grill until the leak is fixed.
- ▶ Keep lighted cigarettes, matches, or open flames away from a leaking grill.
- ▶ Never use a grill indoors. Use the grill at least 10 feet away from your house or any building.
- Do not use the grill in a garage, breezeway, carport, porch, or under a surface that can catch fire.
- ▶ Do not attempt to repair the tank valve or the appliance yourself. See an LP gas dealer or a qualified appliance repair person.
- ▶ Always follow the manufacturer's instructions that accompany the grill.
- ▶ Make sure you use caution when stor-

ing LP gas containers. Always keep containers upright. Never store a spare gas container under or near the grill or indoors. Never store or use flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill.

- ▶ To avoid accidents while transporting LP gas containers, you should transport the container in a secure, upright position. Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, which may open the relief valve and allow gas to escape.

- ▶ You should use extreme caution and always follow manufacturer's instructions when connecting or disconnecting LP gas containers.

Grills manufactured after Oct. 1, 1995, are required to have three additional safety features to eliminate leak hazards: a device to limit the flow of gas in the event of hose

rupture, a mechanism to shut-off the grill, and a feature to prevent the flow of gas if the connection between the tank and the grill is not leak proof.

Consider purchasing grills that have these safety features.

## Charcoal grill tips

Charcoal produces carbon monoxide when it is burned. To reduce these carbon monoxide poisonings, consider the following safety tips:

- ▶ Never burn charcoal inside of homes, vehicles, tents, or campers. Charcoal should never be used indoors, even if ventilation is provided.
- ▶ Since charcoal produces carbon monoxide fumes until the charcoal is completely extinguished, do not store the grill indoors with freshly used coals.

## Obituary

### Terri Lynn and Donovan Joseph Dick

Terri Lynn Dick, 31, and unborn son Donovan Joseph Dick, died from asthma complications early Saturday morning at Sparta Community Hospital, Sparta, Ill.

Terri and Donovan are survived by husband/father Tech. Sgt. Loren Dick, and Terri's father, Terry Peterson (Cable, Ill.), mother, Dorothy (Polenske) Wilson (Colona, Ill.), daughter, Rebekah Dick (Sparta), son, Derek Dick (Sparta), brothers, James (Milan, Ill.),

Kevin (Spangdahlem, Germany) and Wayne Peterson (Atkinson, Ill.), and maternal grandmother, Margaret Polenske (Geneso).

The Dick family made a permanent change of station from here to Scott AFB, Ill., March 13.

Terri was born Aug. 14, 1971, in Geneso, Ill. Terri and Loren were married Nov. 7, 1995, in Yakima, Wash.

Loren worked in Quality Assurance for the 319th Maintenance Group and as a Communication and Navigation Craftsman for the 319th Aircraft

Maintenance Squadron since August 1992. Terri was a homemaker.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at McDaniel Funeral Home, Sparta. Burial was at Oakwood Cemetery, Geneso. A graveside service was also held Thursday in Geneso.

The Dick family has requested any memorials to be sent in the name of an education fund for Terri's and Loren's surviving children, or to the Cardinal Glennon Children Hospital, St. Louis.

# Base chapel

CATHOLIC:

**Mass:** 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.  
**Daily Mass:** Tuesday through Friday 11:30 a.m. Sunflower Chapel.  
**Reconciliation:** 4 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday or by appointment, Sunflower Chapel.  
**CCD:** 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Twining Elementary School, RCIA plus Confirmation.  
**Reconciliation:** 4 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, or by appointment, Sunflower Chapel.

PROTESTANT:

**Traditional worship:** 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.  
**Liturgical worship:** 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel.  
**Contemporary worship:** 6 p.m. Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel.  
**Young Adults:** 6 p.m. Friday, Chaplain Swain’s home, 747-4359.  
**Youth:** 4 p.m. Sunday, held at youth center.  
**Religious Education:** 9 a.m. Sunday, Eielson Elementary School.  
**Men of the Chapel:** noon Monday, Prairie Rose conference room.  
**JEWISH:**  
For details call Sheila Farquharson at 594-3960 or Synagogue B’nai Israel at 775-5124.  
**RUSSIAN/EASTERN ORTHODOX:**  
For details call Dr. Levitov 780-6540.  
**MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, OTHER:**  
For details call 747-5673.

# Base theater

Today, 7 p.m.

***Bringing Down the House (PG-13)***  
A lawyer (Steve Martin) left by the wife (Jean Smart) he still loves tries the world of online dating and meets a woman he believes to be a smart, gorgeous attorney. When she shows up for their first face-to-face meeting, he discovers that his date is Charlene (Queen Latifah), a prison escapee who seeks Peter's legal knowledge to clear her name.

Saturday, 7 p.m.

***Dreamcatcher (R)***  
A group of men who have been friends since childhood go on a hunting trip in northern Maine. When a stranger arrives at their cabin, the four pals (who became telepathically connected to one another after performing a heroic act during their youth) battle an invading alien force that takes over people's bodies.

Sunday, 7 p.m.

***The Hours (PG-13)***  
Hours draws on the life and work of Virginia Woolf (Nicole Kidman) to tell the story of three women: Woolf, who is contemplating suicide; Laura Brown (Julianne Moore), a young pregnant wife and mother in Los Angeles in 1949; and Clarissa Vaughn (Meryl Streep), who is giving a party in New York for her dying friend Richard (Ed Harris).

May 9, 7 p.m.

***The Core (PG-13)***

May 10, 3 p.m.

***Piglets Big Movie (G)***

May 10, 7 p.m.

***Gangs of New York (R)***

**Tickets:** \$1.50 children, \$3 adults  
For details, call 747-3021/6123.

## -- TANKERS, from Page 2

tankers were already airborne, awaiting the lethal receivers. Over the next weeks, tankers would surge to capacity. Most crewmembers flew every day to keep precious fuel airborne.

As the war continued, there were reports of atrocities committed against our soldiers. The Air Component Commander, Lt. Gen. T. Michael Moseley, asked his commanders to think of creative ways to use airpower to destroy the enemy. The team at Base Y took that challenge and ran with it developing innovative ideas to fuel the fight.

We swiftly developed procedures to conduct buddy departures with F-15E Strike Eagles, offloading fuel enroute to the AOR. This additional fuel allowed the Strike Eagles to increase their loiter time over enemy targets by as much as 200 percent, enabling them to apply unprecedented firepower on the enemy. Additionally, after completing our missions in the AOR, tankers returned on multiple occasions to refuel departing fighters in our overhead Jack Track. These warriors were set on doing what it took to get as much fuel as possible to

our coalition partners. The results speak for themselves.

In only 25 days, the 340th EARS flew 425 combat missions, offloading over 26 million pounds of fuel to more than 1,380 coalition aircraft in 2,200 flight hours. Equally impressive, and a tribute to our dedicated maintainers was an incredible 99.5 percent mission-effectiveness rate. They worked diligently to keep the tired tankers soaring.

The one intangible to take away from this whole operation is the way the composite wing synergized to fight this war. Tankers and fighters gelled to make one awesome combat fighting team.

I remember after one mission, a fighter crew showed up in ops to seek out the tanker crew that refueled them and buy them a drink. Then they went to view the film of the target they destroyed. This really made the tanker crews feel like they were part of the fight.

Another crew was given some bomb pins as a token of appreciation from a grateful fighter pilot.

Gen. Moseley, recently stated in an Air Force News article, “At the heart of the effort has been a stellar performance

by coalition tanker aircraft and their crews.”

“The tankers have been the true backbone of this war,” he said. “They have consistently been able to get the fuel to the right asset at the right time.”

To accomplish this, we have employed the tanker like it has never been employed before. Within days of the air war commencing, tankers were flying air-refueling tracks over Iraq. This is unique because the tanker is basically a sitting target. We have absolutely no defensive systems except our “mark-one” eyeballs.

Daily surface-to-air fires characterized these dangerous missions over hostile territory. The ordnance sometimes came so close, the explosions shook the airplane.

To improve our position as much as possible, crewmembers had their survival vests on and parachutes in their seats. However, with no ejection system, the chances of a successful bailout are minimal at best.

As one fighter pilot put it, “The really brave guys are the tanker community who go up there with no way to defend themselves and often fly farther into harm’s way to come get us after we’ve

said, ‘let’s do our job and figure out the fuel on the way out.’”

Heroically, these war fighters entered the hostile battle space and provided crucial fuel!

What is even more amazing is the diverse group that makes up the 340th EARS. This is a true example of the Total Force Team fighting side by side.

When the air war started, the average experience level for active duty pilots was four years flying experience and just 450 flight hours. Contrast this with our Air National Guard teammates whose average experience level is 11 years and over 1,400 flight hours. We melded, took on the challenge, and fueled the fight.

This operation could go down in the books as one of the most successful air wars in history. The Iraqi Army and Republican Guard were so easily defeated by the land component because they were barraged 24-7 with air power. A key ingredient to that air power is the fuel the 40-year old tankers brought to the fight. It is a true honor to serve as the commander of this tremendous unit!

The warriors at Base Y definitely embodied the words, “One Team — One Fight!”



# Make the right choice... Don't drink and drive

**By Chief Master Sgt. Danny Holwerda**  
319th Air Refueling Wing Command Chief

How many of you have made a mistake, or a poor choice or two, in your lifetime?

I'm not capable of answering the question for you, but I humbly admit that I've certainly made a few, and I know I will have some more life learning moments. I've come to realize that these are indeed growing opportunities with the goal being to avoid making the same mistake twice.

I would like to remind you that a big difference exists between a mistake and crime. Unfortunately, Team Grand Forks is going through a negative trend where members are making poor choices, which are viewed as crimes, and they are having an adverse impact on their Air Force career.

A question that confuses some military members is the difference between a mistake and a crime. I'll attempt to explain through some examples. If one is under the age of 21 and makes the personal choice to consume alcohol, this is a crime. It's not only the state law, but it's our base law. So, if you make the personal choice to consume and disregard this law, you should not be the least surprised when your commander administers the associated negative consequences. I can assure you, it will not reflect positively on your Air Force career.

What about operating a motorized vehicle (to include motorcycles, boats, etc.) while under the influence of alcohol? It should be of no surprise to hear that this is indeed a crime. Way too many preventive meas-

ures exist to keep one from getting even remotely close to violating this law. So, if one makes the poor decision to operate while under the influence of alcohol, you again must accept the negative consequences sure to be administered for committing this crime... if you're fortunate enough to be alive.

The instances described above cut to the heart in some areas that are far bigger than any of us individually. First off, it points directly on the trust and honor factor. As your supervisor or commander, if someone can't trust you to comply with basic common laws, how can they possibly trust you to execute the important duties entrusted by our nation and Air Force? At a minimum, you have caused them to have major doubts along with integrity concerns. Your credibility is automatically in question.

Second, once you have been charged with the crime, the headline goes as follows: A member assigned to Grand Forks Air Force Base was charged with driving under the influence.

So, your poor and selfish decision has gone way beyond impacting just you individually. All Team Grand Forks members (really, the entire Air Force and all of our military services) suffer the consequences of your choice to tarnish our military image.

Finally, we are talking about your life and the lives of innocent others. If you don't care about your own life, can you handle the weight of being responsible for the injury or death to others? Many of you were indeed blessed to recently attend a Mothers Against Drunk Driving impact panel. We are grateful for the panel members having the courage to share the realities drunk

driving had on their families. Innocent family members were killed as a result of the selfish and stupid decision of a drunk driver.

So many other options exist versus making the selfish and poor decision to drive drunk. All of you are well aware of the preventive choices. How about making it your rule to never drive after having anything to drink? How about having a designated driver, making absolutely sure this special person has not consumed any alcohol? If these choices failed you, how about contacting our Airman Against Drunk Driving organization for a safe and anonymous ride home? Also, all of our units have designated drivers reflected on recall rosters. The bottom line is no good excuse exists for making the decision to drive drunk!

Your Command Chief Master Sergeant has failed to provide an example of a mistake. For our very first anniversary, I proudly gave my lovely wife a set of new dishes along with utensils. I have come to realize this was a mistake, and I hope to avoid making it again. Thankfully, I've learned and progressed accordingly.

In closing, I challenge Team Grand Forks members to reverse our recent negative trend of poor choices. Just as I've learned and progressed from my mistake, do likewise from those who have committed the crimes described above along with the associated negative consequences. As polite and candid as I'm capable of conveying, the choice to operate a motorized vehicle or to consume alcohol if not of legal age are stupid, selfish and unacceptable. Ninety-nine percent of our team is indeed making the right and responsible choice. I encourage the remaining one percent to join our team.

## *Increased police presence for SpringFest 2003*

**By Capt. Michael Kirby**  
Operations Division Commander  
Grand Forks Police Department

SpringFest has become an annual event at University Park on the University of North Dakota campus.

Originally, the University Program Council of UND sponsored the event. Over the years the event grew and the behavior of some participants raised concerns regarding public safety and public order. The excessive use of alcohol, underage alcohol consumption and other inappropriate behavior prompted the end of UPC sponsorship in 1999. Since then, the event has continued without the sponsorship of any organization.

Unfortunately, the 2001 and 2002

events resulted in damage to public property, minor injuries to public safety officials, and was very disruptive to the surrounding neighborhood.

Over the past year, the City of Grand Forks, Grand Forks Police Department, Grand Forks Park Board, UND and UND Student Government have been working closely to facilitate a safe event. It is the objective of these discussions that the SpringFest event be safe, orderly, and enjoyable for all participants and public safety personnel working the event.

Consequently, there have been some changes in Park District rules. Below is a summary of rules that will be enforced by the Grand Forks Police Department and Grand Forks Municipal Court:

► Park patrons cannot bring, carry,

possess, consume from, dispense from, or have in their possession any glass beverage containers in the park. There is also a prohibition against breaking or causing to be broken any glass objects.

► No household furniture is allowed in the park. The prohibition includes "usable or unusable" household furniture. This does not prohibit lawn furniture.

► Kegs containing alcoholic beverages are allowed by permit only. A permit can only be obtained via application to the Park District. No permits have been approved and are not likely to be approved for this event.

► Fires are prohibited in the park. The only exception is in such places that may be designated by the Park District, such as barbecue pits.

► The Park Director has declared University Park will close at 6:30 p.m., May 10. This will facilitate area and park clean up. Organized groups interested in assisting the Park District with after-event clean up should contact the Park District to coordinate their efforts.

The Grand Forks Police Department will pro-actively address violations of Park District Rules, City of Grand Forks Ordinances, and North Dakota Statutes. Violations of Park District rules or criminal acts will prompt law enforcement action.

Cooperation and responsible behavior will help ensure a safe, orderly, and enjoyable event for participants, public safety personnel working the event, the university community and the neighborhood.

# Honey, I'm home!

**By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Brooks**  
319th Air Refueling Wing Head Chaplain

"Honey, I'm home" is a familiar, expectant shout from that spouse who is returning, perhaps from a day's work. One television network is currently running an advertisement which connects several clips of 50s and 60s television series stars making a grand entrance upon return home calling out in so many words, "Honey, I'm home!" The expectations of the one re-entering "home" and the sentimental feelings evoked by such a scene tug at many memories of the warmth and security of home.

Many Warriors of the North returned home this week, and we anxiously await the return of many more. Warm and passionate welcomes on the flight line and at the city airport are wrapped in emotions, which shout, "Honey, I'm home!" However, the passion of the homecoming is followed by the real task of re-entry.

Waiting spouses and children could not stop handling the many requirements of home, school and work outside the home during deployments. Roles were altered, and waiting family members pulled together to fill the void of the one who was gone. The warmth and passion of the homecoming must contend with readjustments yet again in roles and patterns as the re-joined family must return to meeting the requirements of life.

Similar adjustments are necessary in the work place. Members of a team left behind during deployments had to re-form around reduced numbers, perhaps with

replacements, to accomplish the mission. Returning team members must adjust to altered dynamics and patterns in the team and become part of a new team.

All of this should tell us the challenges of deployments include the challenges of homecoming. This base community offers assistance to meet the challenges of "coming home." Supervisors allow at least a few days off to be with family and friends. Helping base agencies offer excellent programs and one-on-one assistance when needed to cope with homecoming stresses. Among them, Chapel faith groups offer ways to strengthen faith and seek divine assistance. They offer weekly worship, education, and social activities to help connect us to something larger than our problems and us.

Chaplains offer pastoral guidance and counseling that is completely confidential. They combine caring, training, and experience to help individuals and couples gain inner resources for making renewed adjustments in relationships. The Chaplain Service team's administrative offices in the Prairie Rose Chapel, reached at telephone number 747-5673, are a good starting point to contact a chaplain or obtain information about connecting with a faith community. Chaplain assistants are there to assist with information or referrals to chaplains and faith groups.

I join those communities, our chaplains and chaplain assistants in welcoming our warriors home and offering to help with the homecoming. Together, we can "get home!"

## Airman Against Drunk Driving

*\* Available only to military members, their families and DOD civilians*

**Your last resort for a  
safe ride home.**

**740-CARE  
(2273)**





# Air Force launches massive campaign to thank parents of airmen

Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper launched a service-wide campaign May 5 to thank the parents of America's airmen for their support of their children's service.

The Air Force Parent Pin – or “P” pin – program encourages airmen to register on a secure Air Force web site, [www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com](http://www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com), where they can provide the names and addresses of up to two parents (or parental figures).

Shortly thereafter, the airmen's parents receive personalized letters from Secretary Roche and General Jumper containing high-quality lapel pins displaying the letter “P” cradled in the Air Force symbol.

All airmen – active, Guard, and Reserve – are strongly encouraged by their chain of command to register on the web site and have pins sent to up to two recipients.

The pins are a contemporary adaptation of the World War II “E” flags that were used to recognize companies for contributions to the war effort, and they are presented on display cards that explain their lineage.

The letters address recipients and airmen by name. They are intended to communicate to parents the importance of their children's service to the ongoing war on terrorism, to express sincere gratitude for parents' continued support, and to convey a sense of partnership between the Air Force and the parents of America's airmen.

This massive effort comes on heels of

the Air Force's highly-successful “E” pin program, which represented the first direct-mail outreach effort from the leaders of any of the armed services to employers across America.

Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command airmen voluntarily submitted contact information for more than 60,000 employers, each of whom received an “E” pin and a personalized letter from the Secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force Chief of Staff acknowledging them as partners in the war effort.

Air Force leaders have received hundreds of supportive letters and e-mails from employers and airmen because of this program, and today, tens of thousands of employers are wearing Air Force “E” pins as pledges of support for the military service of their airmen.

Both the “P” pin and “E” pin campaigns are elements of the Air Force's Your Guardians of Freedom program.

As families, employers, and communities across the nation share the burdens of military service, it is critical that commanders at every level reach out to cultivate the relationships that form the foundation of public support for their airmen.

Through a secure web site at [www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com](http://www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com), the Your Guardians of Freedom program offers a flexible, user-friendly set of web-based tools that allow commanders and their staffs to quickly and efficiently reach out to key audiences on their bases, in their communities, and beyond.

*(Courtesy Air Force News Service)*







**(Top) Paige Ramsett holds a sign welcoming her dad, Capt. Dean Ramsett, 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron, back from his deployment, while enjoying the view from David Ramsett's shoulders, her grandpa. (Bottom) The crowd eagerly awaiting the arrival of deployed troops despite the cold and windy conditions.**



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol*

# Welcome home

By Kris Jensen and Lisa Davis

It was as if the skies knew. At 7:55 a.m. Monday, in the last hours before hundreds of troops arrived home from the war, heavy, brooding clouds filled the sky south of U.S. Highway 2.

It surprised no one that the clouds skirted the base, not daring to cross into Warrior of the North airspace.

It was that kind of day Monday at Grand Forks Air Force Base. Whenever Warriors return home safely, there are no clouds in the sky.

Master Sgt. Nancy Soderman waited on the grassy strip next to the flightline with 100 others, waiting for the first of the seven planes due in.

Her husband, Master Sgt. Dave Soderman, has been deployed countless times over the couple's 22-year marriage.

But this time was so very different. In Nancy's arms, bundled in a crocheted baby blanket and under an officer's borrowed camouflage jacket, was Rachaele Soderman, 3 months old.

Her daddy went to war when she was just 4 weeks old.

**The longest wait**  
Arrivals are a painfully long process for military families.

The months of waiting aside, the last days and hours drag on for an eternity: Customs and daunting paperwork await

incoming airmen, delaying reunions sometimes for hours. Families can watch airmen step off the KC-135s, but the embraces, the kisses, must wait.

Outside, just after 9 a.m., Nancy Soderman cradled a sleeping Rachaele in her arms, her body tense as she scanned the blue skies for the plane bringing her husband back from Base Z in the Mediterranean.

She watched intensely as each airman appeared in the jet's doorway and stepped down the stairs.

Suddenly, she drew in a sharp breath and the tears spilled from her brown eyes, her slim shoulders shaking as she wept with joy. She saw the man she and Rachaele have been waiting for these past two months.

**Well done**  
With 319th Air Refueling Wing commander Col. Keye Sabol still deployed, vice commander Col. Scott Phillips was the ranking officer out to welcome home the troops.

"This represents the first wave of our airmen coming back from Operation Iraqi Freedom," he said as the crowd cheered and waved flags at the returning troops. "There's a tremendous sense of pride that they were able to accomplish the mission so quickly. It was a job well done — we're very proud of them."

Seven planes were expected in Monday; more are due back throughout the week, bringing home between 200 and 300 Monday and today, with another 150 later in the week, Phillips said. Troops are returning from Base Z, Base Y in Qatar, Incirlik Air Base in Adana, Turkey, Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia and other locations. About 30 percent of the base's nearly 3,000 military members have been deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**Anxious families**  
After the planes began landing, the welcoming crowd moved into a hangar decorated with flags and balloons.

It was here that Sonja Schettler and her daughter, Jaycee, waited anxiously for husband and dad, Sgt. Kevin Schettler, to come off the transport van from the plane. Jaycee was patriotic, with red and white stripes on her jeans and T-shirt.

When Dad pulled in, Jaycee, 4, yelled "Daddeeee!" and ran into his arms.

"Yesterday was the longest day of my life," Sonja said just before her husband walked in. Kevin said he was very glad to be back

from his two-month deployment, but had kept very busy while he was there.

"The weather is very different here," he joked.

And one little girl was so excited that she told everyone who walked by, "My Daddy's coming home today!"

Shari, 4, and her sister, Katie, 2, sat in a double stroller decorated with red, white and blue balloons.

Their mother, Kim Collins, waited eagerly with them.

"He'll be home just in time for Shari's dance recital this week," she said. Soon after Dad came home, she said they would be off and running to Shari's dress rehearsal.

The girls saw several vans pull in and ran up to the door each time before their dad, Capt. Denver Collins, pulled up in a van with others on his flight.

As soon as they realized he was finally there, they ran to meet him, and he swept the two up in his arms.

As he listened to his daughter talk, he reminded them, "you have to show me your Barbie house."

The girls eagerly nodded their heads, holding him tighter.

**'Hi, sweetie'**  
It was 10:15 a.m., an hour after she saw her husband step off the plane. Nancy Soderman sat quietly, rocking Rachaele, and waiting. Vans ferried in small groups of returning troops who had finished processing in, but Dave Soderman was not among them yet.

"I can't imagine what's he's been through," she said, sitting on a metal folding chair with the baby in her arms. "He's been TDY (deployed on temporary duty) so many times, it's an old-hat routine for us," she said.

"But this time has been so different, so very different."

The couple kept in touch with quick phone calls and almost daily e-mails.

The clock hands moved to 10:40 a.m.. Another vanload pulled up. Nancy Soderman seemed almost afraid to hope her husband was aboard. She stayed seated until she couldn't anymore.

A big, blond man in green camouflage stood in the doorway, his eyes riveted on a woman in battle fatigues and a sweet, sleeping baby.

"Hi, sweetie," he said, and he closed them both in his arms.

(Reprinted with permission of the Grand Forks Herald)



*Photo by Senior Airman Jathzed Fabara*

**Shari Collins smiles exuberantly after finally being able to hug her dad, Capt. Denver J. Collins, 911th Air Refueling Squadron.**



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol*

**A heartfelt moment shared not only by Maj. Mitchell Ryan, 911th Air Refueling Squadron, after seeing his family from a deployment, but by those around him who were excited to see the reunion as well.**



# Heir Force

**Jorryn Daniel Alcoser**, 7-pound, 23-inch boy, was born Mar. 21 to Amber Michelle and Staff Sgt. Louis Alcoser, 319th Air Refueling Wing.

**Riley William Duerr**, 6-pound, 11-ounce, 19.5-inch boy, was born Mar. 9 to Senior Airman Robert William Duerr, 319th Security Forces Squadron and Airman 1st Class Jasmin H. Duerr, 319th Logistical Readiness Squadron.

**Faith Mackenzie Flores**, 5-pound, 10-ounce, 18.25-inch girl, was born to Staff Sgt. Adrian Flores, 319th Maintenance Squadron and Staff Sgt. Jordan Flores, 319th Maintenance Squadron.

**Ean Michael Foy**, 7-pound, 3.2-ounce, 19-inch boy, was born Mar. 26 to Jennifer and Airman Michael D. Foy, 319th Civil Engineer Squadron.

**Marisa Jade Locke**, 7-pound, 3.7-ounce, 20.5-inch girl, was born Mar. 11 to Michael Vincent Hayner and Airman 1st Class Mary Frances Locke, 319th Maintenance Squadron.

**Dylan Gavon Richmond**, 7-pound, 8-ounce, 21-inch boy, was born Mar. 16 to Amy and Senior Airman Daryl Richmond, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

**Madison Amelia Ross**, 6-pound, 1.4-ounce, 20-inch girl, was born Mar. 27 to Airman 1st Class Joshua Derek Ross, 319th Civil Engineer Squadron and Airman 1st Class Rachel Ann Ross, 319th Civil Engineer Squadron.

**Colby ElsaLee Roth**, 6-pound, 9.3-ounce, 19-inch girl, was born Mar. 30 to Amy M. and Senior Airman Cameron C. Roth, 319th Communications Squadron.

**Rachaele Rebecca Soderman**, 7-pound, 6-ounce, 20.5-inch girl, was born Jan. 20 to Master Sgt. David Soderman, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and Master Sgt. Nancy Soderman, 319th Medical Support Squadron.

**Nathaniel Elmer Wise**, 6-pound, 10-ounce, 20-inch boy, was born Mar. 13 to Cassandra and Airman 1st Class Eric Wise, 319th Civil Engineer Squadron.



## Visit the base commissary

Where can you find world-class customer service, 30 percent savings, selection, convenience and a family atmosphere?

All of these are under one roof at the base commissary.

Shoppers here buy at cost, plus a five percent surcharge necessary to support new commissary construction and renovations. An average customer will save about 30 percent on their grocery bill compared to shopping at another retail grocer in town. We may not win every pricing battle, but we have never lost a war on overall savings.

A family of four will save more than \$2,000 a year by using the commissary on a regular basis. With \$2,000 to save for a house, education, vacation or investing, the Defense Commissary Agency does play a part in providing a better quality of life for the military family.

The staff and management of the base commissary appreciate your business and consider it an honor in doing whatever we can to make your shopping experience pleasant and rewarding. The sacrifices made by our military in the efforts to secure our freedoms deserve our very best service. Thank you again for your support, and we will be ever attentive to your wants and needs.

# Community

## Today

**POOL TOURNAMENT:** There will be a teen pool tournament at 8 p.m. at the Liberty Square teen center.

**TEENSUPREME MEETING:** There is a TeenSupreme meeting for ages 14 to 18 from 9 to 10 p.m. at the Liberty Square teen Center.

## Saturday

**YOUTH FLIGHT CLEAN-UP DAY:** It’s time to get the Youth Flight facilities ready for the summer!

The Youth Center and Child Development Center are looking for volunteers to help with general clean up of the Youth Center, playgrounds, ball fields, soccer fields, Liberty Square, and the Child Development Center Kiddie Campus and playgrounds from 9 a.m. to noon.

A free lunch will be served from noon to 1 p.m. at the Youth Center. Free daycare will be provided at the Youth Center for school-aged children of the volunteers who may need it.

Sign up at the Youth Center or the Child Development Center, or call 747-3150.

**VIDEO NIGHT:** The Youth Center is holding video night for ages 6 to 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$1 and includes popcorn.

**KARAOKE AT THE CLUB:** The Northern Lights Club is holding karaoke from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.

## Monday

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION:** Registration for The Child Development Center’s fall part-day enrichment program, held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. beginning Sept. 2, opens Monday.

When registering your child, please bring your current Leave and Earnings Statements, and your child’s current shot record.

The part-day enrichment program is open to ages 3 to 5. Parents may choose Tuesday’s and Thursday’s, or Mondays, Wednesday’s and Friday’s.

For details, call the CDC at 747-3042.

## Tuesday

**PARENT’S MEETING:** There is a base-ball parents meeting at 5:30 p.m. at Liberty Square.

## Wednesday

**BOATER SAFETY:** There is a free boater safety class being offered at Outdoor Recreation from 6 to 9:30 p.m. This class is required before renting motorized water-craft from Outdoor Recreation. Also, North Dakota law requires persons ages 12 to 15 to pass an approved boating course if they operate motorboats propelled by motors over 10 horsepower. Additionally, many insurance companies offer a premium discount to adults who complete this course. Another class will be offered May 21. Sign up at Outdoor recreation, or call 747-3688.

## Thursday

**ARTS, CRAFTS:** The Youth Center is holding a free Arts and Crafts Night for ages 6 to 12 at 5:30 p.m. and ages 13 to 18 at 6:30 p.m.

**VALLEY FAIR TRIP:** Outdoor Recreation is offering a Valley Fair trip departing 5 a.m. May 10 from Outdoor Recreation and returning that evening near midnight. Sign up by Thursday at Outdoor Recreation, or call 747-3688.

## Upcoming

**MOTHER’S DAY SUNDAY BRUNCH:** The Northern Lights Club is holding a Mother’s Day brunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 11. Brunch will include two meats, biscuits and gravy, eggs, fruit, waffles, omelets and more.

The last Super Sunday brunch will be offered May 25 with graduates can eating free with a paid adult.

**WINNIPEG ZOO TRIP:** Outdoor Recreation is offering a trip to the Winnipeg Zoo May 17. Transportation departs at 7 a.m., and the cost is \$17.50 per adult (add \$10 per person for family prices) for transportation only. Zoo entrance fee is \$7.50 for families or \$3 per person.

Sign up by May 14 at Outdoor Recreation, or call 747-3688.

**CDC CHILD CARE OPENINGS:** The Child Development Center is offering childcare for 3- to 5-year-old children Mondays through Fridays from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

There are several openings for this age group. For details, call Jackie or Tom at the CDC at 747-3042.



# MXS dethrones LRS soccer team, 5-2

By Senior Airmen Jathzed Fabara  
Public Affairs

When the dust settled on the base intramural soccer season, only the 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron and 319th Maintenance Squadron remained. Each team struggled with a season of deployments, injuries and erratic work schedules due to the wing's heavy war commitments.

"Just making it to a championship this season was a victory within itself," said Rob Lazaro, MXS midfielder. "So many people leaving and returning made it difficult to keep the teams consistent."

However, one more contest still lay ahead of the two teams -- one that would determine if the reigning base champions, LRS (formerly 319th Supply Squadron) would retain the title they have held for the past 3 years, or if MXS could dethrone them.

The odds were stacked against MXS going into the season. LRS had its usual stack of players from the base varsity team, four total added to an already veteran squad. MXS would counter with experience of its own in team captain Wes Frisco, defender Reginald Lintz and midfielder Mickey Scumaci, as well as some newly acquired talent.

The season was a reversal from previous years as LRS found itself in last place going into the play-offs, and MXS was first and undefeated going into the finals, a position held by LRS the past two seasons.

However, none of that would matter in the finals, where team hustle and a single goal could make all the difference. That goal would come early as Scumaci would shoot one past Jeff Durand, LRS goalkeeper, within 60 seconds of the opening whistle, even before

all the spectators were settled into their seats.

Now playing a point behind, LRS would increase its aggressiveness, testing MXS goalkeeper Brandon Caves' resolve with some shots of its own, and contesting every MXS pass and shot attempt with solid defense from Pete Emerton and Matt Muir.

It wasn't until an LRS foul in the midfield that MXS would again capitalize with a quick restart and a second goal by Scumaci.

Just when MXS believed they had the game well in hand, LRS forward Kyle Kuenning would single handedly weave through the MXS defense for a quick goal to put his team on the scoreboard.

The half wasn't over yet, however, as a failed clearance up the middle of the field would allow Lazaro to cash in one more goal for MXS, making the score 3-1 going into halftime.

In the second half fatigue was visible on both sides, but dead-bolt defense and goal scoring would not let up. It would take an inventive chip pass from the right side boards to a finishing Frisco that put MXS up a commanding 4-1 lead.

LRS then began a barrage of unyielding attacks sparked by midfielder Powel Tluczek with Kuenning again on the finishing end to bring them within two goals with 13 minutes left in the game.

In the end, an injury late in

the game to Tluczek would cut LRS chances for a come from behind victory. MXS did not let up and got another goal from Lazaro to put them up 5-2 and extend the game out of reach for LRS.

The high scoring game was set by the demoralizing early goal, which really took its toll on them, said Scumaci. "Nobody played together as a team better than we did this year."

The championship capped off a chaotic season amidst a war, increased work tempo, and ever-changing team rosters.

"It was hard to play this season with all the things going on in the wing," said Kuenning. "We do want to thank all of those who deployed in support of the war and allow everyone in America to continue our everyday way of life, including playing the sport we love."



Photo by Senior Airman Jathzed Fabara

**MXS forward Patrick Kelly rips a shot at LRS goalkeeper Jeff Durand, while defender Pete Emerton looks on.**

## Stepping to Health

A fitness incentive program sponsored by the Health and Wellness Center

**When:** Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

**Where:** Meet at the north entrance of the Fitness Center

**What:** Earn prizes for steps walked during May Fitness Month by wearing a pedometer that measures steps walked

